The Middlebury Campus

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MIDDLEBURY STUDENTS, DEPARTMENTS RESPOND TO RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

TONY SJODIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Students fundraise in support of Ukraine outside of Ross Dining Hall.

By KATIE FUTTERMAN
News Editor

Middlebury has been steadfast in its condemnation of Russia's military assault on Ukraine. The administration, alongside the Student Government Association (SGA), the Russian department and individual student groups, have sent out emails with official statements and information regarding campus-wide talks and fundraising efforts.

"Russia's aggression against its democratic neighbor is a violation of international law, made only more egregious by its escalation in the face of international condemnation. I join that condemnation in solidarity with our Middlebury community," President Laurie Patton wrote in a Feb. 28 email to the community.

The email assured students that student life deans, residential life staff, colleagues in International Student and Scholar Services and many others have been working personally with students from Ukraine, Russia and surrounding states to support them and their families. It also said that the Office of Advancement is reaching out to all alumni with affiliations in the region to offer Middlebury's support.

The email also shared information about events on campus, most of which have already occured. The Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs sponsored three talks about the violence, one in which there was a roundtable discussion with Middlebury faculty and other scholars who specialize in the region. Professor Michael Kraus also led a discussion, "Explaining Putin's War on Ukraine," at a "Hot Topics" event for students only. Professor Will Pyle, the Frederick C. Dirks Professor of International Economics, gave a talk on "Exiting Communism's Enduring Effect on Russian Public Opinion."

Over events besides talks were also scheduled; for example, Wakeful Wednesdays held a gathering for peace, witness to human suffering in the region and cessation of violence in the Middlebury Chapel.

At his weekly politics luncheon, Matt Dickinson, professor of political science, also addressed the invasion of Ukraine.

The email urged students to contact Jeff Knopf, professor and program chair for nonproliferation and terrorism studies, if they were interested in a discussion planned by the Middlebury Institute of International Studies.

Middlebury alumni also contributed to events, as Timothy Frye '86, Marshall D. Shulman professor of post-Soviet foreign policy at Columbia University, spoke on Russian foreign policy and

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Professor Lana Povitz receives tenure-track position following student campaign of support

By RILEY BOARD
Editor in Chief

Last week, Visiting Assistant Professor of History Lana Povitz was unsure of her future at Middlebury. By Friday afternoon, she signed a contract for a tenure-track position in the History Department, starting this July. Povitz, who is currently completing her third consecutive visiting contract at the college, received a tenure-track offer from the University of Montreal in late February; students rallied to get the college to match Povitz's offer before she had to provide an answer to Montreal.

Povitz had hoped that the college would offer her a position through partner hire, a process by which professors or candidates may seek hiring for their spouses and partners. Povitz's partner Dima Ayoub, assistant professor of Arabic and C.V. Starr Junior Faculty Fellow in International Studies, put in a request to the administration for partner hire after she notified the History Department and Dean of Faculty Sujata Moorti of her other offer on Monday, February 21.

Moorti did not respond to requests for comment by time of press.

After hearing of Povitz's situation two weeks ago, current and former students organized in her support and asked past students of Povitz's to submit testimonials about their experience in her classes. On March 1, the organizers launched a website sharing the more than 50 letters submitted by students, alongside more formal letters. On Friday, March 5, a group of more than a dozen students, led by Kristen Morgenstern '24, showed up at Old Chapel to hand deliver the printed-out letters to administrators in their offices.

"I am extremely happy with the decision made to give Professor Povitz a tenure track position in the history department. The department and college at large will be a stronger and better learning community because of this decision," Morgenstern said.

Morgenstern explained that the campaign was organized with the guidance of alumni and students, and encouraged student organizers to pursue their causes.

"It shouldn't take students protesting outside of Old Chapel, disrupting trustee meetings, 51 letters from students and two pieces in The Campus for the administration to listen. But the truth is that oftentimes it does," she said.

Povitz signed a contract on Friday and expressed her excitement about the outcome. "I couldn't be happier. The college really came through. This has renewed Dima and my commitment to being a force for good at this place," Povitz said.

Jacob Tropp, associate professor and chair of the History Department, affirmed his enthusiasm for the outcome. "The History Department is delighted that the college has finally offered Prof. Povitz a tenure-track position," he said.

Professors adjust to fluctuations in class attendance due to Covid-19

By RYAN McELROY
Contributing Writer

More than 400 students have tested positive for Covid-19 since the beginning of the spring semester — with more than 100 cases reported on certain days during the past four weeks — leaving professors to reconsider how they should include students who cannot attend in-person class.

Middlebury professors have full autonomy over the modality of their classes, but now have to plan for students in isolation.

"As far as I can tell, [the school] is going for maximum flexibility and maximum autonomy for the faculty given how different our class structures are," said Associate Professor of English and American Literatures Antonia Losano.

She has been offering a Zoom-in option for students in isolation, as well as recorded lectures for those who are symptomatic and do not feel well enough to attend virtual classes.

Some faculty have moved classes fully online or implemented a hybrid system that has some students on Zoom, while others decided to continue fully in-person classes.

Associate Professor of History Maggie Clinton decided to move her classes fully online last week to minimize the risks of spreading the virus to herself and her students.

"Is in-person teaching a three-hour seminar preferable? Yes. Was it worth putting myself and my students at further Covid risk? No," Clinton said.

Clinton's experiences with a foster care health clinic in Queens, New York during the start of the pandemic and personal struggles with at-risk family members informed this choice.

"I was interning for my MSW [Masters in Social Work] program at a foster care health clinic in Queens during 2019-2020 when COVID erupted, so witnessed from the start how devastating COVID is and can be, especially to underresourced communities of color," Clinton said in an email to The Campus.

She said her decision to transition online was for the safety of family members, young children and members of the Middlebury community who may not have equal access to healthcare.

Although faculty have appreciated the freedom to adjust class structure and modality, this approach has left some students feeling excluded from learning while in quarantine. They expressed frustration that

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SPORTS

WOMEN'S HOCKEY ADVANCES TO NCAA SEMIFINALS

COURTESY OF COLIN BORQUE

The Panthers celebrate a goal by Kylie Quinlan '24, who scored three goals in the team's 4–0 win over Endicott last Saturday.

By CHARLES CROUNSE
Sports Editor

For the first time in 13 years, Middlebury College will host the final two rounds of the NCAA Division III women's hockey championship.

Ranked No. 1 in the nation entering the NCAA tournament, the Panthers will host the semifinals, finals and third-place game in Kenyon Arena. Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota faces Plattsburgh State in the first semifinal on Friday at 3 p.m., while Middlebury faces Elmira College for a 7 p.m. faceoff that night.

Middlebury advances to the semifinal after a commanding 4–0 victory over Endicott College last Saturday. Rookie Kylie Quinlan '24 scored three goals while junior captain Eva Hendrikson '22.5 also netted one.

Quinlan opened the scoring for the Panthers with six minutes to play in the first period, reacting quickest to knock in a rebound. Hendrikson scored a crucial second for the Panthers just two minutes into the second period, blasting a shot through a crowd of defenders that left Endicott goalkeeper Michaela O'Brien unsighted. Quinlan then scored her second tally of the game on a power play deep into the second period before completing her hat trick on another power play with thirteen minutes to play in the third.

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Aidan Harris '24 from Indianapolis, Ind. is a sophomore on the men's tennis team. Harris plays both doubles and singles, aiming to lead the Panthers...

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MIDDLEBURY SUSPENDS SCHOOL ABROAD IN INDIA UNTIL AT LEAST 2024

By TONY SJODIN
Senior News Editor

Middlebury temporarily suspended the School in India for the 2022–23 academic year, citing challenges with running the program and the lack of a school able to accept male students.

Previously, the college ran the School in India through partnerships with St. Stephen's College, Indraprastha College for Women, and Lady Shri Ram College for Women, which are part of the University of Delhi education system. St. Stephen's — the only college partner that accepts men — informed Middlebury in February that it would not accept any students from the college for the 2022–23 academic year, prompting the program-wide suspension.

During the pandemic, many courses at the University of Delhi have been online and several colleges have not accepted international students.

"With no place for male students in India, for a third year, this is an appropriate time to take stock of our current program model and location," Bill Mayers, assistant director of international programs, said in a press release sent to The Campus. "So we are taking this time to explore other venues and reimagine how we can introduce students to the richness and complexity that India has to offer."

Mayers said St. Stephen's decision to refuse admission to any Middlebury students forced the college to make a rapid decision. While Middlebury has historically sent more women than men to India, the only students who had applied to study abroad for the 2022-23 academic year when Middlebury received the news were men.

"We had to act on this news quickly, since we received it after the application deadline had technically passed for Middlebury students to apply for study abroad next year," Mayers said in an email to The Campus. "We wanted to be sure that students who'd applied to India were informed in time to apply to alternative programs."

According to Middlebury's study abroad page for the School in India, students studying in Delhi have classes in English and take a course in Hindi. Academic disciplines available at the colleges include STEM, humanities, social science and arts. Women were able to study at any of the three colleges.

While the college is reevaluating its current program in India, the program has not yet been permanently canceled. In the past, several Middlebury students have returned to India as Fulbright scholars after studying abroad in Delhi as undergraduates.

"It is our hope that we will welcome students back to the School in India in 2024," Mayers said.

Professors adjust to fluctuations in class attendance due to Covid-19

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the school was allowing professors complete control over this issue.

"I don't think these decisions should be left up to the professor. All classes should be adaptable," Donovan Compton '23, a student who was quarantined earlier this semester, said. "You don't have to move the whole class online to make up for one or two people who have Covid-19, but allow them the opportunity to access the class."

Offering an online option has been in debate since the start of the spring semester. Associate Professor of Political Science Sarah Stroup had planned on teaching in person and expected her students to be in the classroom, but about one third of her students have been absent from class since the start of the semester.

"One colleague described this to me as an attendance merry-go-round, when you don't know who is going to show up on any particular day," Stroup said. "That's the part that is challenging, especially as we are building a shared foundation of knowledge and a community for dialogue."

Stroup recently tested positive for Covid-19 and moved class online for the duration of her quarantine. She said that there were some benefits to being online, as it allowed for better class planning and equal attention to all students. Despite these benefits, she described the lack of energy during her Humanitarian Action class's discussion over Zoom.

"[This week] culminated in a discussion section on the 1993-1994 Somalia intervention," Stroup said. "While the students were excellent and very well prepared, the energy was low and it wasn't quite the exciting and dynamic classroom experience it could be."

Stroup also addressed the recent policy change from the school, which announced that masks will no longer be required in most indoor spaces — barring classes — beginning on March 18. She tested positive for Covid on a Monday morning and moved her classes fully online for that week.

"I'm not sure that the new regulations will substantially alter people's behavior. They may reflect what is already current practice," Stroup said. "I'm pretty sure that I have Covid because a lot of students are hanging out together without masks."

Professors have also acknowledged that although these are challenging times, they continue to work with students to adjust class expectations and ensure that these transitions do not unfairly impact students.

> "One colleague described this to me as an attendance merry-go-round, when you don't know who is going to show up on any particular day."

"It's not necessarily fair to expect that this is the same as three years ago, and everything is going to run like clockwork," Losano said. She hopes to remain flexible with isolating students and adjust her expectations for completing class assignments. "Show me some evidence that you've engaged with the material, and I'll be happy," she said.

Losano also praised the students for their flexibility in transitioning between in-person and virtual teaching, and thanked them for helping with technology issues and ensuring their quarantined classmates were included during class.

"I hope students and departments will extend understanding and support to all staff and instructors in the coming weeks as the campus Omicron wave passes," Clinton said. "If we have to navigate a seminar on Zoom for a week or two, I think everyone can handle it."

MIDDLEBURY STUDENTS, DEPARTMENTS RESPOND TO RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

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the invasion of Ukraine at an all-community Zoom event.

The email also included a link to a recording of a talk from the Thursday prior, "The War over History: Russia and Ukraine on the Brink of Defining their Identities."

Later that same day, Derek Doucet, dean of students, sent another email, which condemned the defacement of posters related to Ukraine that had been put up.

Representatives of SGA sent an email to the community, which echoed the administration's condemnation of Russia's violence. SGA urged students to remain attuned to the situation and to check in on peers who may be impacted by the violence. They attached several educational resources and infographics put together by Mariia Dzholos '24, Masha Makutonina '21.5, Misha Poklad '22, Andriiana Ilkiv '24 and Rostyslav Yarovyk '25.

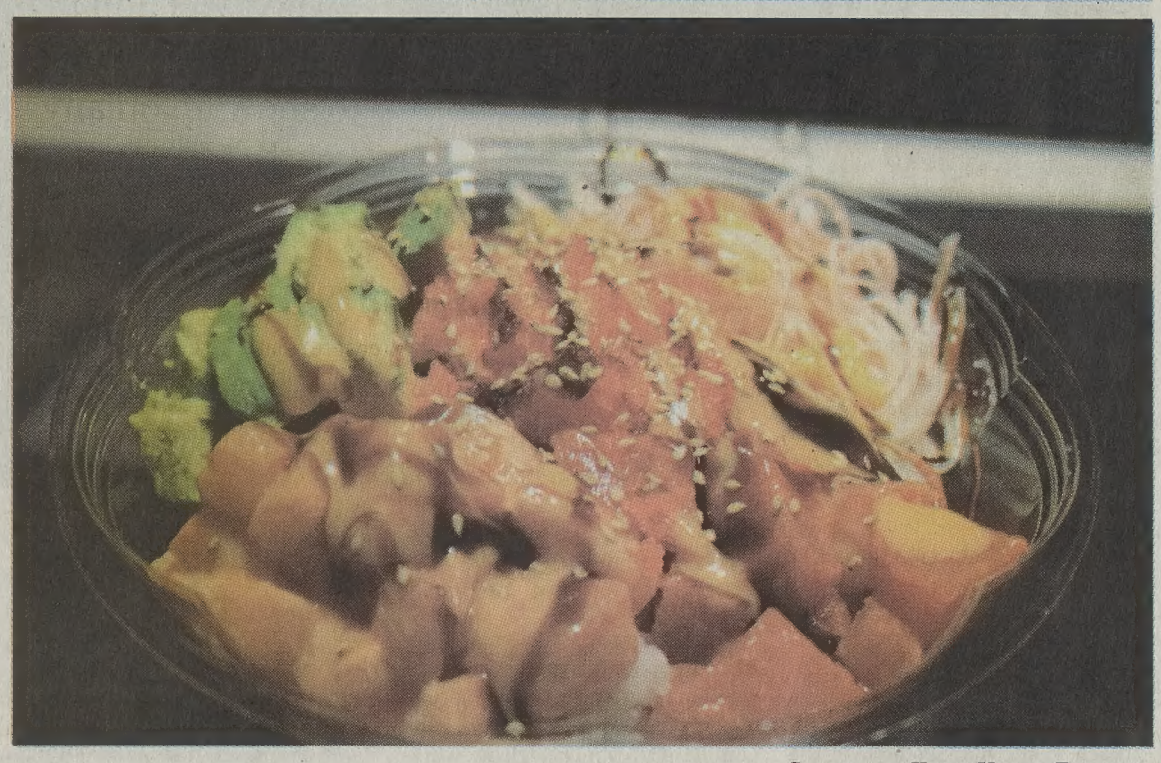
Kevin Moss, Jean Thomson Fulton, professor of modern language & literature, sent an email to students who study Russian with a statement from the Middlebury Russian Department. It condemned Russia's military assault, urged students to attend as many Ukraine related events as possible and included links to help support Ukraine.

On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during the weeks of March 14 and March 28, there were tables outside the dining halls with posters, art and sweets to raise awareness and encourage students to donate to organizations, including Nova Ukraine.

The college continues to update students and hold events as Russia's violence increases.

Sabai Sabai's renovations and new hot food bar driven by effects of pandemic

By SUSANNA SCHATZ
Contributing Writer



Courtesy of Khaim Vassar-Fontenot

The new hot food bar (upper) features poke bowls (lower), and Sabai plans to offer ice cream this summer.

Sabai Sabai, Middlebury's local Thai restaurant, recently reopened after a seven-week closure for renovations. During this time, the restaurant added a hot food bar that holds poké and ready-made dishes. The renovations were in response to the struggles the business faced during the pandemic, the owner said.

Naphatsnun Sinpaksawat, known by many as "Tip," runs Sabai Sabai alongside her husband. The pair moved to Vermont in 2008 and later to Middlebury in 2012. This year marks the ten-year anniversary of the opening of the iconic Middlebury eatery.

Sinpaksawat said that Middlebury is a community similar to Thailand: everyone knows each other and smiles at one another on the street. Even so, the pandemic raised issues of employment and supply for Sabai Sabai, things they already struggled with before the pandemic as well.

While Sabai Sabai sources their perishable supplies like meat and vegetables from nearby, around seventy percent of the ingredients Sabai Sabai uses in their dishes are imported from abroad. Over the last two years, it has been difficult to gather some of the essential ingredients needed, because of elevated prices as well as disruptions and delays in the supply chain. Sabai Sabai also struggled with disruptions in expected deliveries.

"On certain days we have to adjust and work with the resources that we have," Sinpaksawat said.

The choice to renovate their restaurant and add the hot food bar was largely a strategy to combat the issues brought on by the pandemic.

"With Covid-19 and the situation right now, it made us think, 'OK, we need to adjust,'" Sinpaksawat explained.

Finding and paying steady employees, an issue the restaurant struggled with prior to the pandemic, has since become more difficult, one reason for the shift in operations. Even if the restaurant is unable to function as it typically has — with waitstaff and made-to-order food — in the future, it will still be able to operate its quick serve and poké bars.

Sabai Sabai planned to be finished with renovations in six weeks. It was scheduled to reopen at the beginning of February after closing on Christmas day, 2021. However renovations took longer than expected, and the restaurant was unable to reopen until February 14.

"It was definitely something that I missed when it wasn't open," said Sarah Miller '24, a regular at Sabai Sabai. She said she went there for a friend's birthday soon after the restaurant reopened.

Sinpaksawat spoke about how having a positive outlook helped her and her husband persevere despite construction setbacks. She emphasized her appreciation for the patience and understanding of Sabai's customers during their temporary closure.

"Hopefully we can accomplish the goal we set out and bring more quality food," she said.

In order to minimize losses during their closure, the owners chose to schedule renovations for the winter because the college would be out of session for breaks for part of that time, Sinpaksawat explained.

Sabai Sabai ran a soft opening of the new quick-serve option during the first week after reopening: They offered three to four ready-made dishes that customers could purchase in a grab-and-go style.

"Because we've been doing made-to-order for a long time, some people were kind of curious at first," Sinpaksawat said.

As a result of customers' mixed reactions to the addition of the quick-serve options, they decided to wait to fully launch that new aspect of their business.

"We will hold back probably until after spring break or summer break, and we will put it back again," Sinpaksawat said.

The hot food bar is another strategy to combat long wait times that often arise. This too is chiefly a result of the understaffing caused by the pandemic.

"We still have low staffing," Sinpaksawat explained. "Before, we had four or five people in the cook line, now we have only two people." One is the head chef, Sinpaksawat's husband, and the other cook handles appetizers and soups.

Sabai Sabai hopes to encourage customers to try something new by offering a more diverse selection of Thai dishes in the quick-serve bar.

"When you want to do something, love to do something, you want to bring it to others... say 'Hey, I have a new dish that I want to offer,'" Sinpaksawat said.

They plan to also offer ice cream in their new food bar this summer.

"We will have Asian style ice cream, like red bean flavor, flavors that have probably not been around," she said.

Sinpaksawat said that she hopes for Sabai Sabai to be a part of students' memories of their college experience, and that it is not just business, it's friendship.

"It means a lot to be a part of your guys' life," Sinpaksawat said.

Sinpaksawat emphasized her gratitude toward their customers during their temporary closure."Thank you to students and professors for the continued support, for being very kind and understanding," she said.

Sheldon Museum exhibit to feature collected items from residents of Addison County

By MAYA HEIKKINEN
News Editor

"Addison County Collects," a new exhibit highlighting collections in Addison County, will run at the Henry Sheldon Museum from May 17, 2022, to Jan. 7, 2023.

Consistent with the museum's current focus on the life of Henry Sheldon, the exhibit will feature items from current-day Addison County collectors, although the objects themselves do not have to be from the county. Sheldon was the museum's founder and a passionate collector of items related to Addison County and the surrounding area.

"We're telling people that the collector lives in Addison County, but the collection pieces can be from anywhere around the world," the museum's Associate Director Mary Manley said.

Manley has wanted to feature a "fun community exhibit" like this for a long time. She explained how she was inspired by the "High Museum Collects" exhibit that she experienced while working at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta.

"I've always thought it was a great way to pull a community together, just to see for fun what people collect, because as we're already learning, it's so diverse," Manley said.

The exhibit team reviewing submissions includes Manley, along with Taylor Rosini, the museum's collections associate and grant writer, and Aine Powers '24, who recently began working for the museum.

Collectors must fill out the submission form, found on the Henry Sheldon museum's website, by March 21. Manley said she expects that most submissions will be able to be featured. "Part of it will be 'does the object fit our goal for the exhibit,' which pretty much everything, I think, will," she said. "We also have to think about and consider the exhibit space, and how we would display it, and can we display it safely, so that will be another consideration as we make our decision."

A series of programs and events will be held in conjunction with the exhibit during the summer months. The events will take place either in the gallery or outside in the Sheldon garden, depending on Covid-19 and the type of event. Programs will range from talks on collecting, to explanations of collection care and how auctioning works, to conversations with collectors whose items are featured in the exhibit.

"We plan to have a tent out in the Sheldon's garden, and we like to use that space as a nice community gathering space," Manley said. "This being a community exhibit, we plan to have some of the programs outside." Concerts will also take place in the garden during the summer.

For younger collectors, a complimentary exhibit will take place in an adjacent room to the main exhibit, called "Addison County Kids Collect," giving local kids the chance to show off their own collections. "I feel like from a young age everyone kind of has this desire to collect knick knacks, and there's so many kids with their little rock collections, or their baseball card collections and things like that," Powers said. The exhibit will be an interactive experience, incorporating hands-on activities with summer workshops.

One item that will be featured in the main exhibit is an Abenaki sweetgrass thimble basket, collected by Wendy Butler. Originally acquired by her great-grandmother in the early 20th century, the basket has been in Butler's family for a long time. "[It has] sort of inspired me to collect other Abenaki fancy baskets," Butler said.

Abenaki basket makers began producing these artistic baskets around the end of the 19th century, Butler added.

Butler said she hopes the item will be accompanied by information about the history and cultural value of the basket, and that others who also own these baskets will be able to learn about their value. "I really like the idea that it's sort of an opportunity for this culture to survive."

The exhibit will also showcase homeopathic medicinal bottles and a daguerreotype case, which were used by a Cornwall physician who graduated from the Cleveland Homeopathic Medical College in 1858. Additionally, it will include clothing or reindeer carvings from Mongolia, the first official issue of Mizz Magazine from 1972 and a sextant used on a ship for navigation.

According to Manley, the common theme among the exhibit is that every collector has a story. "Unlike some exhibits, we're not showing a whole collection. [We have] asked people to submit one object that represents their collection, so it might be their favorite piece, or the one they feel like has the most interesting story. The stories tie everything together, [and] we're amazed at the variety of objects that we're seeing," said Manley.

Submissions could range from scientific to artistic. The exhibit is designed to reflect the full range of types of items Sheldon collected, including archival materials such as photographs and maps.

"It's about passion," Manley added. "Henry Sheldon was so passionate about collecting. We want to say: people in Addison County are still passionate about collecting."

The exhibit will also give collectors a unique opportunity to see their collections in a museum.

"This is a way for them to share something they're passionate about, that they love, but only their small circle of friends or family might ever see," Manley said. "To get them out in the museum for all our visitors to enjoy is really special."

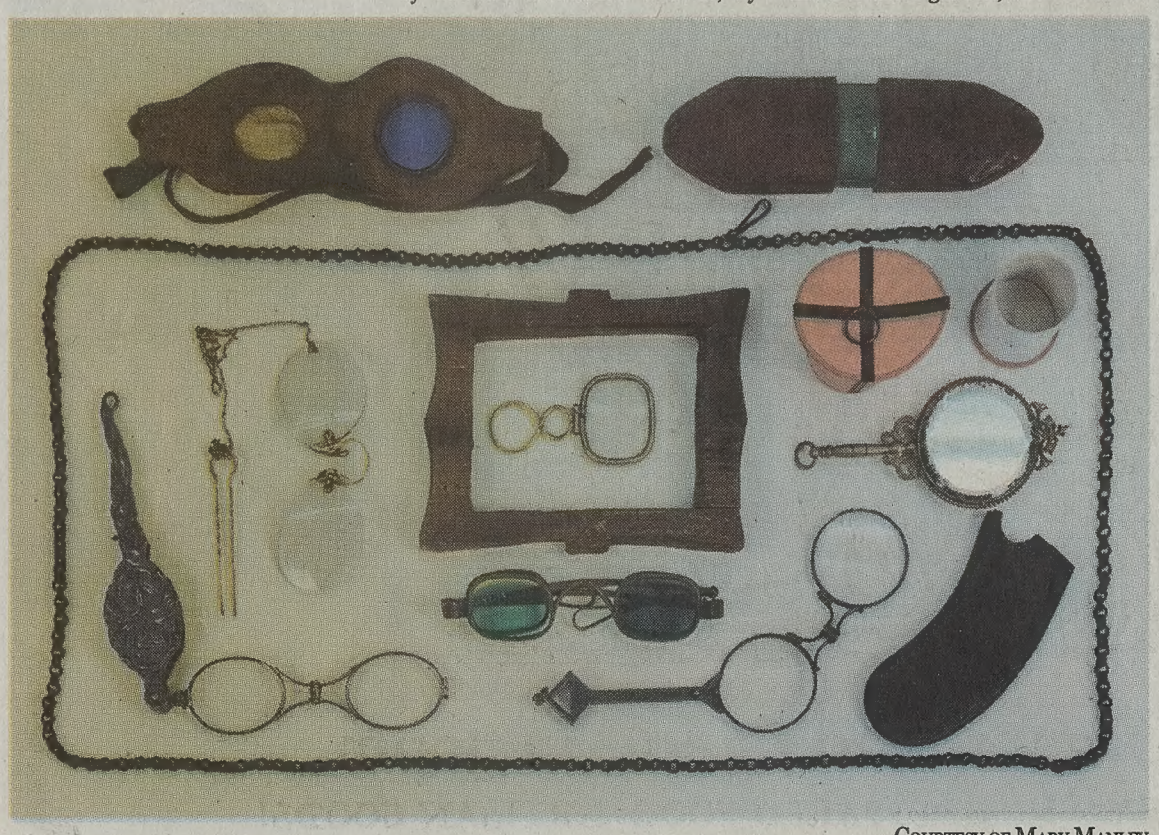
Visitors are expected from all around the world during the summer and fall. The museum is considering featuring a map of the world to highlight these areas, along with a historical map of Addison County.

"It's really an international exhibit coming from collections in Addison County," Manley said.

Manley said she hopes that professors at the college, or students who come from Addison County whose families might collect, will consider lending an item to the exhibit.

To encourage any and all interested in the exhibit to visit, the museum will also host a "free Saturday" once a month.

More information about the exhibit, including the form for submitting objects for the exhibit can be found at https://www.henryshel-donmuseum.org/addison-county-collects.



Courtesy of Mary Manley

Eric Nelson's photograph "All the Better to See You With" features historic eyeglasses from Henry L. Sheldon's collection.

Middlebury's Main Street welcomes Sparrow Arts Supply

By EMILY HOGAN
Layout Editor

COURTESY OF BETH SVENNINGSEN
Beth Svenningsen works the cash register for customers at the grand opening of Sparrow Arts on March 11.

On Friday, March 11, Sparrow Art Supply opened its doors for local Middlebury artists, students and other community members eager to explore the addition of a new shop on Main Street. The store is located at 52 Main Street, a few doors down from Buy Again Alley on the corner adjacent to the bridge over Otter Creek.

Before moving to the area, founders Beth Svenningsen and her fiance had been considering moving to Middlebury for a time due to the convenience of nearby ski areas and a love of the small-town community. The emergence of Covid-19 while the couple were still living in their New York City home accelerated their move. As a practicing artist, Svenningsen researched art supply stores in Middlebury to anticipate where she might get her supplies, but found the nearest store was an hour away. She then had the idea to start her own art supply store in town.

"It just planted this seed in my mind," Svenningsen said.

She applied for a grant with Kick Start Middlebury, a program designed to create incentives for new business creation in Middlebury. The application required building a business plan and thus, helped turn her idea into reality.

While Svenningsen created Sparrow Art Supply out of a need for closer art supply options for locals, herself included, she also mentioned her aims for the shop to become something bigger and more impactful.

"The idea for the store really came out of a need for the creative community in the area and the desire to create a creative community hub here," she said. Her emphasis on community has guided her approach to the management of the store.

Svenningsen mentioned three key components to her business: a retail art supply store, a gallery to showcase local artists' work, and community events such as workshops, open drawing sessions and club meetings. The store will carry items such as sketchbooks, oil paints, printmaking supplies and various other supplies that customers might need.

The shop is also home to a gallery, in which it will showcase a variety of art from people throughout the community. On opening night, the gallery hosted a show entitled "Nice to Meet You," featuring over forty artists' work after the store put out a call to artists.

"The idea was, 'I'm really excited to be joining the downtown scene, wouldn't it be fun if other artists got the chance to introduce themselves to the gallery and to the community here,'" Svenningsen said. The show embodied Svenningsen's idea of community as customers streamed in to see the work.

The final prong of Svenningsen's vision for Sparrow Art Supply involves community events, which she notes are still developing but will come in the near future. She hopes the shop will be open for artist workshops as well as open drawing sessions and club meetings. Svenningsen draws on her past experience at open drawing sessions in New York City as inspiration for these events.

"I would go with my friends or with my sister and we'd sit there and we'd chat and we'd draw separately and it was really fun," she said.

Svenningsen has made it a significant part of her business to serve the community, which has informed her preparations for the store and will continue to guide her adaptations as the business grows.

"I'm really here for feedback," she said. "I even have a survey up on my website if anyone wants to give their two cents."

The survey gathers information on favorite brands, particular products customers would like to see in the store, as well as workshops they might like to attend, to give Svenningsen a better idea of what customers want from a shop like hers. This sense of inclusivity extends to the types of products she is offering, ranging from student-grade materials to professional supplies, accessible to any type of artist.

"Anyone can make art and it can be fulfilling in so many different ways, so I just hope that my store can be a catalyst for that," she said.

While preparations for the opening of Sparrow Arts have taken over many hours of Svennigsen's life in the past few months, art continues to be an integral part of her days. A member of the Brandon Artists' Guild, she currently exhibits some of her artwork in their gallery. And a shop such as Sparrow Arts demands an experienced artist managing it.

"I'm not an expert in every aspect of art, but I am a knowledgeable person in terms of being able to help people with products they want to find or if they have any questions," she said. She hopes to establish herself as a point-person for the local community, including everyone from aspiring students to artists with several degrees.

With the passing of its grand opening and the shop now up and running, Svenningson can focus on future plans regarding community events and adjusting to local feedback. In addition to hosting more gallery events featuring local artists, she hopes to organize and extend public events to a broad range of Middlebury residents, possibly even including Middlebury College's own art club.

"If they wanted to host one of their events here I would totally be into that," she said. "I'm really here to foster community."

Sparrow Arts will be open Wednesday through Sunday weekly — Wednesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. — and will continue to expand their calendar for their rotating gallery with different types of exhibitions as well as community events. As the shop evolves, Svenningsen's initial seed planted at the height of Covid-19 will continue to expand, though her motivations stay the same.

COURTESY OF BETH SVENNINGSEN
The shop's gallery features over forty artists' work in its opening show, "Nice To Meet You".

Pro worker? Show it better.

Editorial

The editorial represents the opinion of the Middlebury Campus Editorial Board.

Two weeks ago, in our second staff issue, we editorialized on the apparent disconnect between staff and students, calling upon the latter to use their status as patrons of this institution to rally on behalf of those making barely livable wages. On Thursday, our community woke up to multiple instances of vandalism; both on the side of the McCullough tent and on the east-facing side of Coffrin Hall.

We think that it's safe to assume that this graffiti was done by a student — and unfortunately, student vandalism is nothing new. These messages last week, however, were underscored by a much different tone than the thoughtless destruction of previous instances. They read in black spray paint, respectively, "Raise the Wages," "Pro Worker Anti Admin," "End Union Busting @ Midd" and "Higher Wages Now! End Union Busting @ Midd!".

Claiming to support staff while increasing their workload — which they have long expressed is unsustainable — is unacceptable. On Instagram, college horticulturalist Tim Parsons said, "If you really want to help staff stop disrespecting our campus, we don't have time for this. Work with us, not against us." One commenter, a staff member at the college, noted that it took 40 hours of staff labor to address the vandalism on the tent alone.

It's not as if administrators, or anyone else making decisions about staff wages, are the ones scrubbing off the spray paint. As a result, this vandalism is nefariously performative; the offender committed an act that perhaps alleviated their own conscience but added to the workloads of multiple staff members, without making any meaningful impact.

> "If you really want to help staff stop disrespecting our campus, we don't have time for this. Work with us, not against us."

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This instance is, in essence, characterized by a uniquely vicious level of entitlement that has only served to exacerbate the continued abuse of college staff that the vandalizer themself appears to condemn. It also comes off as paternalistic, with the implication that students know how to rally for staff better than staff themselves know how to do. We don't know if this was spontaneous or planned, but we do know that it is reflective of many aspects of Middlebury's broader culture of social justice — in which a predominantly white and wealthy student body latches on to issues to make themselves feel better about the privilege they embody while remaining completely out of touch with the marginalized communities themselves.

It's particularly frustrating knowing that we have seen first hand the ability of student protests and demonstrations to catalyze an increase of the wage floor. The act of vandalism last week is solely destructive and may undermine future efforts regarding the rights of staff. Student activism going forward might struggle if associated with this, possibly being brushed away as superficial and hostile. There are so many other avenues that could have been taken, yet this person chose one that will only serve to widen the gap between staff and students.

We can only hope that students will channel their frustrations — which are more than valid — toward means that are in line with what staff members actually need and want from us.

We too are frustrated with how administrators have consistently sidelined and overworked workers, and we often don't know the best way to go about addressing this. We do know, however, that a spray paint power trip only furthers mistreatment of staff.

We are not saying that forms of protest should only be peaceful and palatable for the powers that be. As a board, we support disruptive actions on and off campus to enact change. But it is critical to not consequently disrupt the lives of those we are aiming to help, which is what this graffiti ultimately did.

When it comes to activism, students often have nothing to lose. Just last week, more than a dozen students interrupted a Board of Trustees meeting to rally on behalf of Professor Lana Povitz, after which their demands were met, and no disciplinary action occurred. This is not to equate activism on behalf of faculty with that of staff; the latter is a significantly more uphill battle.

It is, however, important to note the extent to which students can go without suffering any immediate consequences for their activism. On the other hand, staff have everything to lose; they could be continuously under threat of being fired or passed over for promotion if they began to organize. It is imperative for students to recognize this and take advantage of their own agency on behalf of staff.

At the end of the day, effort and dedication equate to results; anonymous graffiti that likely took all of fifteen minutes to complete is not going to better the lives of over eight-hundred staff members. It is integral that students invest significant time and energy into engaging with staff members and mobilizing their peers — but only if these actions are intentional, meaningful and do not cause additional harm for the communities that students are trying to advocate for.

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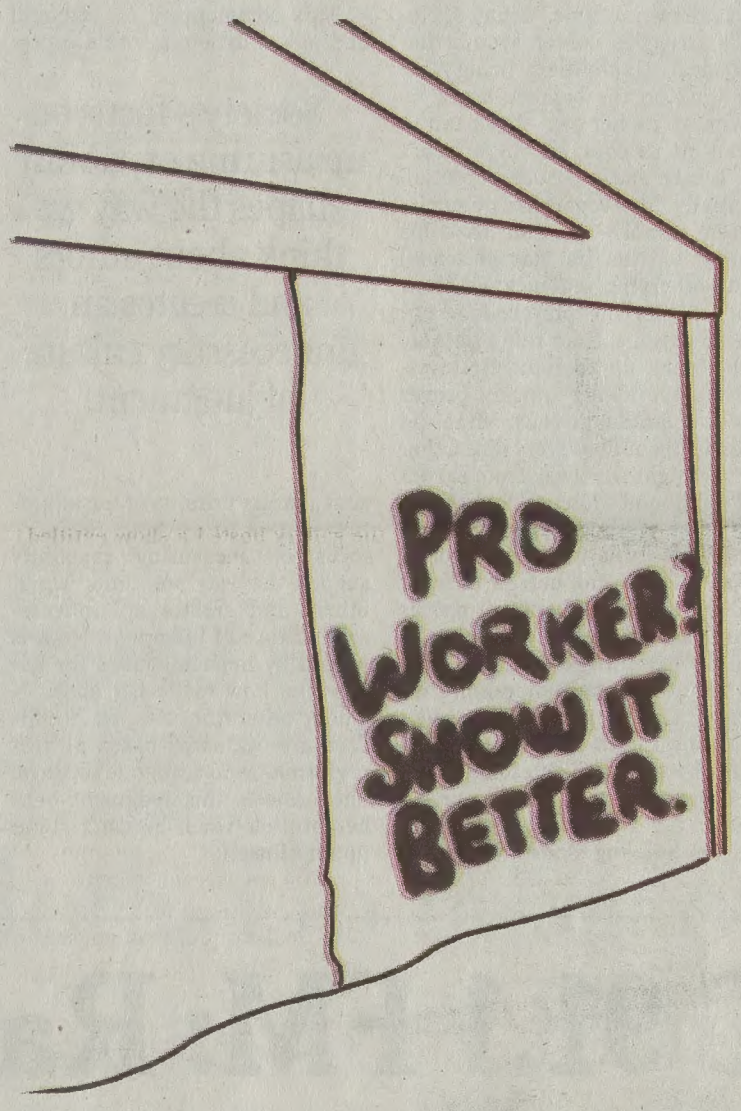

Sabrina Templeton

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Reel Critic: "Playground"

Courtesy Photo

By MAGGIE BRYAN
Contributing Writer

Laura Wendel's debut feature film, "Playground," walks the line between childhood nostalgia and painful, formative experiences. The film opens with the words, "un monde" — the film's original title and the French word for "a world." The film reminds audiences of the complex social relationships that exist even in elementary schools and asks them to relive the painful friendship dynamics of youth. The story follows timid seven-year-old Nora's (Maya Vanderbeque) first experiences at school, and the audience watches her navigate what justice means to her as she confronts bullying for the first time.

The opening scene shows Nora hugging her brother goodbye as they leave for their respective classes. Nora cannot bear to leave her brother Abel (Günter Duret) or her father (Karim Leklou). It is her first day at her new school, and it is clear that the older and more experienced Abel is the center of her world. As the days go on, Nora begins to feel more comfortable at school, and she even makes two new friends. Soon, however, she learns that Abel isn't as secure in the school environment as she thought.

Whether or not intentional, it's ironic how close the name "Abel" is to the word "able." Many of Nora's struggles center around her physical capabilities: being able to walk on the balance beam, to swim, to tie her own shoes and to read. At its core, school is meant to create and measure potential. Initially, Abel seems like he's mastered school — he can leave his father on the first day of school without crying, and he knows how to navigate the playground. For these reasons, Nora relies on Abel and looks up to him. However, Abel's confidence quickly proves to be a façade, as Nora witnesses him being bullied every day. Other films might shy away from scenes of childhood violence, but Abel's bullying is shown in full cruelty. Nora initially tries to protect Abel by throwing herself in front of his attackers. Doing so proves fruitless and frustrates Abel, who thinks her intervention will lead to his attacks becoming more intense, so she stops. Eventually, Nora begins to resent Abel, perhaps because he is no longer who she wanted him to be. In a reversal at the end of the film, Abel begins bullying someone else. At this point, the playground barbarity is nothing new. Nora tries to stop him by pulling him away, he releases his victim, and the film ends with them hugging, as peacefully as it started.

This commentary on strength and power dynamics could represent a larger critique of the education system as a whole. Society's focus on measuring capability shapes the way we think about others and creates an unnecessary culture of judgment. Nora is judged by her classmates for not knowing how to tie her shoes — among other things — just as children are evaluated based on test performance in academic settings. She projects this judgment onto her brother when he can't stand up for himself.

> Society's focus on measuring capability shapes the way we think about others and creates an unnecessary culture of judgment.

From the start, the camera is at eye level with Nora. Throughout the film, the frame never allows the audience to see more than a few feet wider than Nora's face. This child-centric viewpoint is disorienting at first, but immediately emphasizes the detail in Vanderbeque's facial expressions. Adults are rarely shown unless they choose to kneel down to Nora's level. Children are drawn to things that are shocking, so other events are briefly shown only if they're significantly gruesome. Some examples are Abel being beaten up or Nora's friends burying a dead bird. Centering on Nora's face, the audience is often forced to ignore what's going on in the background, thus transporting us to a time when little matters other than ourselves.

A key element to the film is its lack of music. There's no sonic rhythm to build anticipation or indicate tension. Instead, the film uses the sounds of the school as its soundtrack. Abrupt scene changes from the classroom to the pool to the playground are exacerbated by varying volume levels. Without music, it's easy to sympathize with Nora's feeling of disorientation. At times, it's difficult for viewers to absorb all the noise, not to mention how overwhelming it must be for children. When the music stops, a moment of relief is followed by another round of confusion because the silence feels artificial.

As the film progresses, viewers enter the chaos that is elementary school. Scenes change suddenly without explanation, yet it doesn't feel unnatural because it's a schedule with which the audience is familiar. The film shifts brusquely from scenes of morning drop-off, to inside the classroom, to the playground at recess, to the pool and pickup at the end of the day, creating a repeating pattern throughout the film. These changes are similar to the whiplash that occurs when children are forced to live by a strict schedule for the first time.

Bullying isn't a new topic of commentary, but "Playground" tells a more raw version of the story. It's a story that isn't afraid to push the limits of childhood violence while also evoking relatable nostalgia. The intersection between nostalgia and physicality is a powerful one; during the hour-long film, I laughed, winced and teared up. By giving adults a lens into childhood emotions, Wendel forces audiences to question how they can support children and how education systems can improve.

WRMC 91.1 FM: Radio Roundup

By THE WRMC EXEC BOARD

**RIYL (recommended if you like)*

Concerts Manager's Pick
Jose Morales '22

Album: "Strawberry" — Caroline Loveglow
Genre: Dream Pop, Indie Pop
RIYL: Yot Club, Men I Trust, Cafune
Blurb: If I could pick one word to describe Caroline's first debut project "Strawberry," it would be "floating." On "Strawberry," Loveglow takes the soft sounds from the dream pop genre and gives it a gentle punch with distortion and reverb in her production and vocals. Caroline's vocals dance on top of soft bass and warped guitars on tracks like "Zenosyne" and "Blue Arcade." If you're into dream pop, you'll have some fun listening to this album.

Library Manager's Pick
Kyle Hooker '24

Album: "Deflowered" — Pansy Division
Genre: Punk Rock, Pop
RIYL: The Mr. T Experience, Screeching Weasel, The Queers
Blurb: Pansy Division is a rare all-gay punk rock band. They began releasing music in the early 90's, seeking to defy the stereotype that gay men only like pop divas and showtunes. This is their second album, released in 1994. It took guts to release music that is this unapologetically and explicitly gay at the time.

General Manager's Pick
Maddie Van Beek '22.5

Album: "PORN ACTING*" by Jean Dawson
Genre: Alternative Rock
RIYL: Paris Texas, Deb Never, binki, Terry Presume
Blurb: Each new era in my life is marked by a new Jean Dawson release. His newest single, "PORN ACTING*," is no different. As always, the lyrics are raw and relatable: "Lord knows it's hard to make friends though / I just stick around / Nobody is worse than me." Like many of his tracks, it starts off light and sing-songy, but quickly devolves into chaos and conflict as the guitar picks up and his vocals become more hoarse.

Concerts Manager's Pick
Jose Morales '22

Track: "New Wave" — Sam Gellaitry
Genre: Electronic, House, Funk
RIYL: Mura Masa, Jadu Jadu, Folamour
Blurb: Sam Gellaitry was featured in our weekly rotation picks when he released his previous EP "IV" (2021) including one of his most popular songs "Assumptions." "New Wave" is a continuation of his established style including some funky production in the distorted drum patterns and guitar riff in the second half of the song. It's a fun house track with hints of disco and funk.

Pia Contreras

Anikaya Dance Theatre takes flight at Mahaney

The Anikaya Dance Theatre performed at Middlebury on March 11 and 12.

Courtesy Photo

By SOPHIA AFSAR-KESHMIRI
Contributing Writer

Despite setbacks presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Anikaya Dance Theatre was able to make the journey to Middlebury at long last to perform their interpretive dance piece "Conference of the Birds." The group performed at the college's Dance Theater on March 11 and 12. The group's visit had to be rescheduled twice since planning began in 2019. The performance was well worth the wait.

The group is made up of extremely talented dancers, composers and artists from all over the world. The group hails from no one place, and has projects in the works in five different countries. The show included elements of dance, theatre, music and graphic design. The group prides itself on its multidimensionality and use of many art forms. Founded in 1998, their mission is to bring people from different cultures and backgrounds together. Persian poet Farid Ud din Attar wrote an epic also titled "Conference of the Birds," serving as the inspiration for this modern rendition. The Anikaya Dance Theatre places a large emphasis on the importance of empathy in making the world a better place.

The dancers played a group of birds, soaring through valleys, desperately trying to find a mythical creature named Simurgh. The performance was organized into ten different segments, divided by the different valleys visited along the journey. The story concludes with the birds realizing that they were the Simurgh the entire time. The group took the audience through all ten segments, using changes in lighting, music and choreography to tell the story.

For 100 minutes, the group guided the audience through each chapter by moving as one in their transitions from valley to valley; they danced as if they were a flock of birds, gathering together and making wide flying motions with their arms in unison. Time in each valley was signified by more individualistic dancing. Some dancers would be performing solos, some duets and at times trios — all simultaneously. At these times, the dancers portrayed a more chaotic scene of nature, rather than the symmetric organization associated with a flock of birds flying together.

There were platforms of varying heights on the stage that the dancers moved on and off of throughout the performance. At different times, these platforms gave the illusion of birds perched on branches of different trees or flying at different heights. At one point in the choreography, one member let themself fall from one of the high platforms and the group gingerly caught them. The choreography was filled with other unique acrobatics. Members carried each other, climbed over each other and formed barricades with their bodies that other members would try to break through.

Behind the dancers, three screens displayed moving digital art. At times, a birdlike figure was projected on the screen and the dancers would respond to this figure's movements and the music. At other times, the art and movements being shown on the screens complemented the dancers' choreography.

There was no need for faux feathers or beaks to convince viewers that the dancers were a flock of birds; they instead wore outfits consisting of layers of loose, thin garments. Some dancers had multiple shirts on, others had clothing tied around their waists and others still wore scarves draped and wrapped around them. The clothing hung limp on their bodies, flowing as they ran and leaped across the stage. At one point in the performance, all the dancers began to shed the many layers they wore to signify pain.

Most notable about the performance was the group's sheer athleticism. The choreography was so impossibly athletic, and even more gracefully executed. There were times when members would shake convulsively and collapse to the ground, then pull themselves back up and perform the stunt again. There were long moments when the group would run laps around the stage, swinging their arms and crouching low to the ground to keep in character.

The group did not take a break during the entire performance. If the dancers were tired by the strenuous choreography, they certainly did not show it; the group only grew more energetic as the performance progressed. While there is room for error during the final moments of grueling game or athletic activity, there was none for Anikaya; the group couldn't afford mishaps during stunts such as catching a falling cast member or turning their bodies into a platform for other members to climb. Their mental and physical fortitude was mind-blowing. Throughout the entire piece their movements only grew more graceful, intentional and certain. At the point when most would have been out of breath, exhausted and ready to collapse, their acting only grew more convincing, their choreography more athletic and their energy to unimaginable heights.

The most memorable and emotional scene from the performance was "The Valley of Bewilderment." The dancers' facial expressions and movements implied a haunting pain that resonated with the audience. They screeched in pain, hobbled across the stage, and helped each other up. It was both a moment of fear and unity in the performance.

Migration and journey were the two main themes of the performance. When Anikaya was introduced, it was emphasized how timely these themes were, given the horrible suffering and pain that the people of Ukraine are currently experiencing. In the back of programs, audience members were provided a sticky note, asked to "consider the Valley of Detachment," and prompted to write the single item they would bring to face the burden of leaving their whole world. What would you bring?

'Meta' Moth-Up takes on story-within-a-story format

By LUKE STOVAK
Contributing Writer

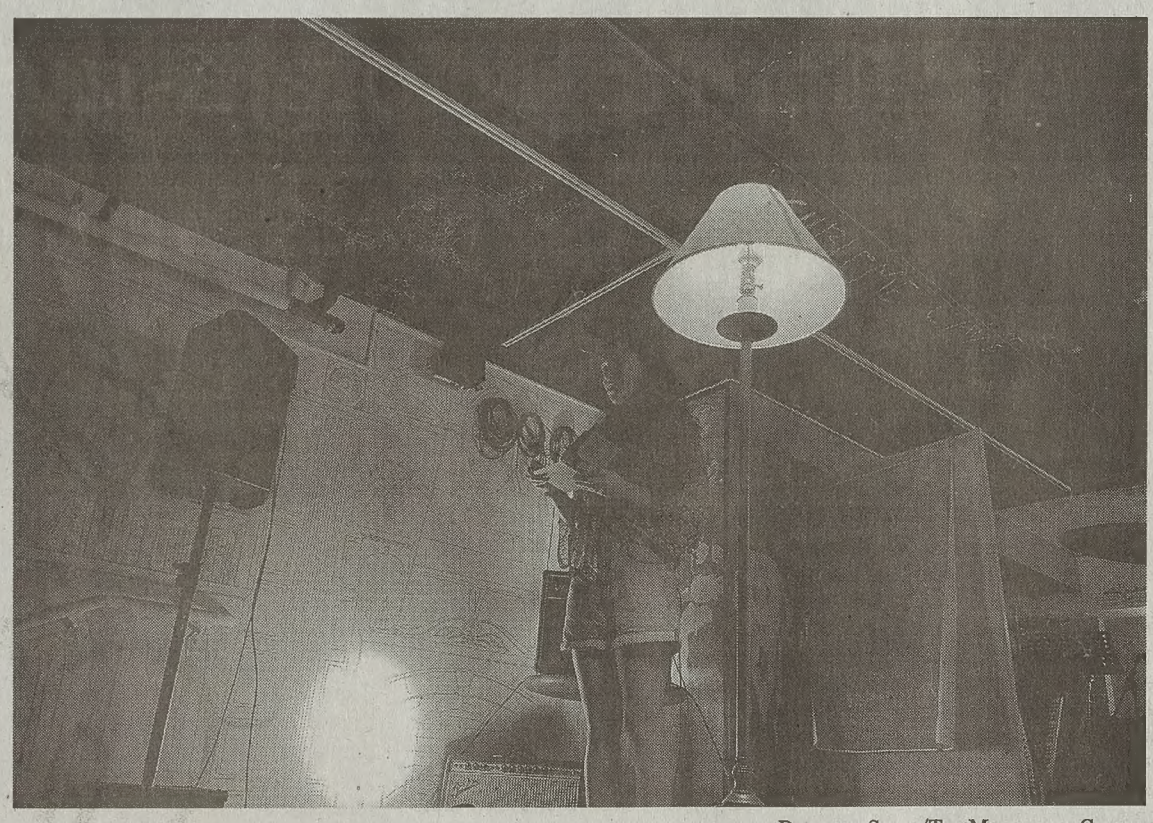
On March 9, the live Moth-Up storytelling event brought an intimacy to Middlebury not often experienced in the whirlwind of the academic week. Hosted in the Gamut Room, where the audience had to arrange themselves Tetris-style to fit, the event kicked off when the lights were dimmed and a spotlight shone on the speaker, creating a personal link between audience member and storyteller. No microphones were present; voices alone were used to fill the space.

Moth-Up operates on three rules: stories must be true, they must be unscripted and they must be around 10 minutes long. The theme linking the stories together this time was "Meta Moth" — telling a story within a story — but since the Moth-Up rules necessitate truthful, personal stories, this was difficult. Meta stories are often explored in postmodern literature and are characterized by unreliable narration and self-reflexivity, most often exemplified in fictional stories.

To kick things off, Cesca Medeiros '25 presented a heartwarming story about her family formation. Her family consists of her father, an NYC-art-school-dropout who became a real estate agent in Miami, and a black lab adopted from a grilled cheese restaurant. One time, an errant swipe of her dog's paw led to an eyelid hanging off her face and a joke about needing plastic surgery in Miami. The story ended with her dog curled around her as she recovered from the incident. The speech was complemented by imitations of her father and high school teacher at tense moments in the narrative. The story felt like a vessel to coalesce humor, intelligent observation and personal reflection — no one piece was overwhelming, and each component was necessary to the naturalness of the story.

Next up was Trey Atkins '22.5, sporting all-beige attire, with a straight posture and gestures to impart a nonverbal authority to the story. He led listeners through the last day at his high school, citing stimuli that brought back specific memories: parking in the same spot as he did throughout high school; two spaces to the right of a particular rock; the smell of goose poop from the grass. A wall of athletic plaques became a story about running heel to toe with his toes pointed out until the athletic trainer intervened late in high school; the screen which projected his morning announcements became voiced by a friend saying "Gooood morning Chase High." Through personal details he found a universality of experience, revealing that while it may be easy to drown in nostalgia, the experiences we have are not simply over; our past transcends time to shape the present.

Max Bluhm '23.5 discussed reconnecting with the college after Covid-19 removed him from his on-campus college experience. Though he was anxious about how to return to Middlebury after not having a social support system, Bluhm revived friendships upon returning to campus. He reminisced about a chaotic weekend on Mountain Club's leader program, where a well-intentioned act of trying to become accustomed to Vermont winter turned into an episode of hypothermia, leading him to bond with others. The story highlighted how social connections can be made from any experience.



Daleelah Saleh/The Middlebury Campus

Moth-Up speaker Celeste Levy '22 shares a story about Chritmases past and present.

Celeste Levy '22 finished off the evening by discussing their favorite Christmas tradition: falling asleep on the carpet with their grandmother while she read a 1950's Welsh poem. After not traveling home for the holidays this year, they discussed spending time in a barn in rural Vermont. Levy's confidence in the story was palpable; moments of pause were not awkward, but rather, built anticipation. The story concluded with a modern callback to their childhood tradition, with Levy recounting their partner falling asleep in their lap. Then, a section of that same Welsh poem was read aloud to the audience.

Between speakers, Moth-Up organizers read anonymous audience responses to the prompt: "A story your parents would not like to hear." Examples included, "igloo sex on Battell Beach" and "taking acid while hiking, getting lost and hallucinating a guide." These stories filled in every spare minute, providing a complete hour of entertainment, although at times it would have been nice to have a moment of silence between sets to reflect on the stories.

The speakers' success did not stem from their mere vulnerability. Each speaker told a story that touched on palatable truths most of us ignore in daily life, but discreetly shape our identity. Maybe this Moth-Up's stories were not "meta" on their own — perhaps, they required an audience to project onto the speaker, creating innumerable truths.

PFL WEEKLY

PFL Weekly Ep. 4:

History in Kenyon Arena, women's swim off to nationals, track relay team earns All-American

By BLAISE SIEFER, ELI DIBARI, MARCO FENGLER, CAPTAIN RUDOLPH, CAROLINE HARDING

What a week to be a Panther! Women's hockey punched their ticket to the NCAA semifinals, men's tennis won 18-straight matches on Sunday and the women's DMR relay team earned All-American honors. On this episode, the PFL Weekly team recaps these accomplishments, while also previewing the women's swim & dive NCAA championships and upcoming spring break trips for Middlebury's varsity teams. Blaise, Captain, Eli and Marco name their Panther all-stars of the week and Marco gives a "Marco guarantee!"

Women's hockey punches ticket to NCAA semifinals

Continued from Page 1

Speaking on the win, Quinlan was effusive in her praise of both her teammates and the Middlebury home crowd, which tallied a whopping 1,426 in attendance.

"It was really a full team effort this weekend, with everyone stepping up," Quinlan said. "We also thrived off of the energy from the Middlebury community in the stands. It was truly an unbelievable experience to be able to win a playoff game on home ice in front of them."

Despite the upcoming spring break, Quinlan and her team will hope for a similar turnout to cheer them on this weekend as they face a tough Elmira side who are currently on a 16-game unbeaten run.

The Panthers and the Elmira Soaring Eagles have a notable history with each other; the teams have faced off four times in the national tournament since the turn of the century, with each school claiming two victories. They have also squared off eight times in the previously annual Panther-Cardinal classic, with the schools each winning three and tying twice, and battled earlier this season, with Middlebury emerging the 2–1 victors.

COURTESY OF COLIN BOURQUE

The Panthers celebrate a goal by Kylie Quinlan '25, who scored a hat trick in the team's 4–0 win over Endicott last Saturday.

SEVEN QUESTIONS WITH AIDAN HARRIS '24, MEN'S TENNIS

COURTESY OF MIDDLEURY ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Aidan Harris '24 returns a shot during a game for the Panthers.

By CAPTAIN RUDOLPH
Staff Writer

Aidan Harris '24 from Indianapolis, Ind. is a sophomore on the men's tennis team. Harris plays both doubles and singles, aiming to lead the Panthers to the NCAA tournament this May. In this installment of "Seven Questions," Harris discusses his beginnings with tennis, his aspirations for the season and his pre-match rituals.

Captain Rudolph: *How did you get started playing tennis in Indianapolis?*

Aidan Harris: I actually started playing tennis for the first time when I was five years old. In seventh grade, I started focusing on tennis as my primary sport, and I actually got really lucky that one of the best coaches in the country was from Indianapolis. He had coached a two-time doubles grand slam champion. His presence attracted people from all over the Midwest to come train with him. So, I was very lucky to have him because he really helped me grow as a player along with the many other strong competitors in the Indianapolis area.

***CR:** What's a funny/weird pre-match ritual you have?*

AH: After every point I'll either go to the towel, I'll adjust my hat or I'll fix my shorts. And if I win the point I'll do those things an even number of times. So, I'll either do zero or two of them and if I lose the point I'll either do one or three of them, so an odd number. It's really weird, but it's a good way for me to forget what happened during the last point and to reset no matter the outcome.

***CR:** What dining hall meal is your favorite?*

AH: General Tso's Chicken... easily! A full plate with rice and General Tso's Chicken is the best dinner after a long practice. And maybe a little broccoli to try to get some healthy food in there, but it's only a little bit of broccoli, that's for sure.

***CR:** What are your aspirations for the season ahead?*

AH: First of all, everyone's super fired up to play this season because the seniors are the only ones that have gotten the chance to compete in a spring season before. Just getting the chance to compete in the duel match format is exciting because I love the team format where I get to play next to my teammates and friends. Our goal every year is to build a national championship team. Our coach makes the distinction between actually winning a national championship and a national championship team. Every team wants to be champion and obviously that's a great goal that we have, but more importantly, we're going to focus on putting in all the work that's expected to become a national championship caliber team. We want to make sure we look back at the season and have no regrets. So, we're excited to see where the season takes us because the sky is the limit!

***CR:** If you were to play a different sport at Midd, what would you want it to be?*

AH: Golf. My senior year [of high school] I played with my brother who was on our golf team. I couldn't get enough of it — within two months, I had already gotten a lot better. Tennis is an individual sport so some of the characteristics translate over to golf, like learning to handle adversity. Also, it's awesome to play individually for the sake of the team which is also an element of golf. I love golf, I could play it all day, every day.

***CR:** What's your secret studying spot on campus?*

AH: I usually go in the library to the carrels up the stairs and off to the side. I like working in a space where I can lock in and not be surrounded by too many people because I can get distracted easily by talking to friends. I hope this answer doesn't make it not so secret or else I'll have to find a new spot.

***CR:** If you were to be sponsored by one restaurant in town, which would you want it to be?*

AH: I would definitely pick Mr. Ups. It's the first restaurant I went to in town, and it's a tennis team favorite. Can't ever go wrong with some maple bbq thumbs and toes and a cookie skillet for dessert.

Editor's Note: This interview has been lightly edited for brevity and clarity.